COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Happiness is a Monthly Comic

For fifty years, *Charles Schulz's* ***Peanuts*** was king of the comic strip; in all that time, however, Charlie Brown's appearances in comic *books* were much more limited and less well-known—and in fact, have been non-existent for more than fifty years.

Until this November, that is.

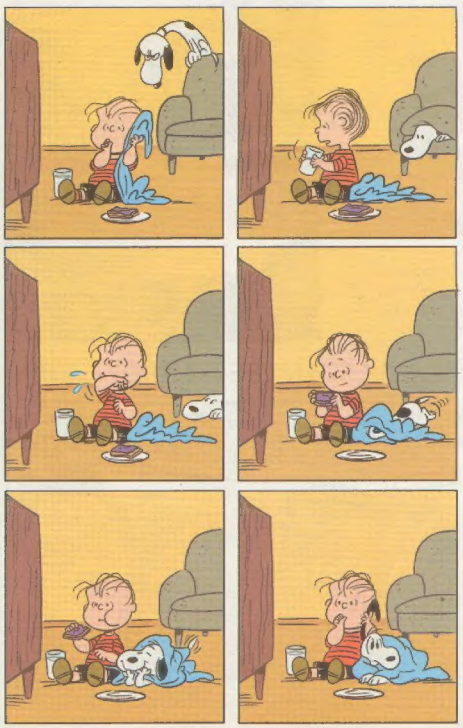
November sees the release of ***Peanuts #0***, a bargain-priced preview issue that paves the way for the monthly ***Peanuts*** comic starting in 2012. "We were honored to publish the first ***Peanuts*** graphic novel ***Happiness Is a Warm Blanket, Charlie Brown*** this past spring, and now we are doubly honored to publish a new ***Peanuts*** monthly comic series," Boom Studios Founder and Chief Executive Officer *Ross Richie* said. "The team at ***Peanuts*** have entrusted us with these characters and we aim to do everything we can to honor the memory and the characters of *Charles Schulz*."

Paige Braddock, Creative Director of Charles M Schulz Creative Associates, explained that the ***Peanuts*** comic will be produced using a blend of "traditional work flow, working with Boom, as well as in-house generated material.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D BE AFRAID OF WHAT THE KIDS IN SCHOOL WOULD SAY ABOUT THAT BLANKET.
DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF CANDY?
!
WHACK!
PING
THEY DON'T SAY VERY MUCH.

When we expanded the California creative team several months ago, we (Peanuts Worldwide) were lucky enough to grab some terrific art talent for our Santa Rosa studio. We wanted to give part of that team an opportunity to work on the new comic book series. Boom has been very gracious in letting us take the lead on some of the first issues."

Peanuts has a fifty-year history as a short-form series—that is, it got in, made its point in a few daily panels, then moved on to something else the next day. How different is it to produce a comic book series instead? "It's a little bit different, but I think we're using a similar approach," Braddock said. "Rather than trying to do one longer 24-page story, the monthly issues will contain a couple of 8 page short stories. The stories are fun and quick for those of us with shorter attention spans.



"We will also have some long-form graphic novel stories on the horizon. Those are written to fit that format as an original story, instead of using comic strips strung together to make a longer story. Obviously every story we do looks back at the strip for tone, character and themes."

To ensure that the book maintains the look and feel of Schulz's classic strip, "all content will be controlled and collaborated on between our two teams," Braddock said. "For the first issue we have an original story by *Vicki Scott*, inked by me, and another story by *Ron Zorman*. Both Vicki and Ron worked on the graphic novel, ***Happiness is a warm blanket, Charlie Brown***. Vicki works here in the studio with us, and Ron is an animator at Pixar."

Where does the ***Peanuts*** comic fit in to the lives of Charlie Brown and the ***Peanuts*** gang? "We're basing these stories on themes and characters that resided in the strip in the 1960s," Braddock said. "This seems to be the period in the comic strip where Schulz really hit his stride and had established the major characters and themes. Also, as far as the art goes from this period, there's a lot of really funny source material to pull from for inspiration."

Any chance we might get a solo Snoopy story or two? "Not sure how much I should give away on this," Braddock said, "but there *is* a Snoopy and Woodstock story on its way!"

Obviously, ***Peanuts*** became very holiday-linked, thanks to the holiday-themed animated series. Can we expect to see holiday-themed stories at the appropriate times? "Hopefully I won't get in trouble for saying this, but I think it's a disservice to ***Peanuts*** that it has gotten portrayed as a holiday themed 'property,'" Braddock confided. "And it's really only because of the popularity of the Christmas special and others. The comic strip is a 365 day a year story and we all want the comic book series to let that shine through.

"Our number one goal is to make these stories fun and hopefully get kids interested in these rich characters. Clearly, when you read the strip from the 60s/70s, Schulz was having fun with the strip."

It's been more than a decade since the last new Peanuts strip appeared; while the strip has continued in reprints in many papers, there's a generation of young readers who have grown up without new Peanuts material. How will the comic book be designed to appeal to those younger readers as well as the older readers who remember the strip as one of the highlights of the art form? "You know, as a fan of these characters, I'm sad about the fact that kids have grown up without them," Braddock said. "These were characters that fully embodied their issues and weren't afraid to talk about them. These characters have real depth and honesty. I feel like modern kids need that in their lives. The problem is that kids don't read newspaper comics so for them to meet these characters we have to be where kids. Hopefully, creating these comic books will help us do that.

"As for design, we'll fully exploit the sequential art story telling of traditional comic books. However, the full-page format will give us more room to expand backgrounds and story context.Breaking out of the comic strip, horizontal format, will allow for more visual story telling. I think this will be more of a style that younger readers are used to and our goal is to stay true to the editorial guidelines that Schulz set forth so hopefully more seasoned fans will be pleased as well."

Will there be any classic reprint material in the comic book series? "There has been some discussion about doing some reprints of a few strips in each book," Braddock said. "I hope that happens, because that would be Schulz, unfiltered."

As far as Braddock is concerned, the most important aspect of Boom's series is that ***Peanuts*** is returning to comics with original material after more than a decade of reprints. "I am *very* excited about this comic book series," Braddock said. "I worked with Schulz during the last year of his life, and it's been hard to watch ***Peanuts*** hover on the verge of becoming a comic that only adults read and appreciate. I mean, when I was a kid, Snoopy was the character that inspired me to be a cartoonist. I want kids today to have that same inspiration.

"I think *Sparky (Schulz)* enjoyed working on the Dell comic series back in the 60s. Some of the covers he did for that series were magical and he would definitely have enjoyed the creative team we have here at the studio now. All of us love comics and love ***Peanuts*** and greatly respect his work."

Peanuts will join the all-ages Kaboom line in November with a special $1 zero issue before launching its monthly run in January 2012. The zero issue will feature an original comics story as well as supplementary material provide a sneak peek at the ongoing series.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

The New 52 Makes News

For the past several months, *CSN* has told you about DC's big plans for their 52-title DCU relaunch. We knew it was going to be big—but even we were taken by surprise as to how big it was!

Even before the book officially went on sale on 8/31, DC had sold through their hefty overprinting of ***Justice League* #1**. A day later, a second printing (rushed into production to arrive in stores on 9/14) sold out before some stores even knew it was being offered. A day after that, the third printing was announced and it too sold out within hours.

And it's not just ***Justice League*** that's selling out: ***Action Comics #1, Batgirl #1, Hawk & Dove #1, Batman and Robin #1...*** they've all sold out of a hefty overprinting prior to release, and they won't be the last. Apparently almost *everyone* was unprepared for the phenomenal response that DC's New 52 has generated.

By the time this issue of *CSN* makes it to comic shops, the first month of The New 52 will be 3/4 of the way over—but that's just month one. Odds are that the sell-outs are going to continue into the second month as well, so do yourself a favor and reserve these books with your local comic shop now, so that you don't miss out!

A Silver Star Is Reborn

Jack Kirby may be one of the best-known creators in the history of comics, but his Silver Star is far less well-known... intentionally!

The last great Kirby creation, Morgan Miller is the first of a new breed: Homo-Geneticus. The most powerful man in the world has been living in secret for the last thirty years—but he's been busy. Silver Star secretly protects the world from the amazing super-powerful dangers that threaten billions every day—danger such as superheroic war, giant monsters, and astral menaces!

"Silver Star stands next to Captain Victory as one of Kirby's greatest independent creations—those he gave the greatest thought and attention to," legendary artist and ***Kirby: Genesis*** designer *Alex Ross* said. "It's a key accomplishment of the ***Kirby: Genesis*** series to return these characters to prominence in the field. Silver Star is *Jack Kirby's* Superman and Dr. Manhattan all rolled into one."

"Silver Star is the first line of defense against super-incredible forces that need to be handled without alerting the public," writer *Jai Nitz* explained. "Giant monster? Call Silver Star. Asteroid threatening the Earth? Call Silver Star! Our main conceit is that the public doesn't know about all the fantastical dangers or the Silver Star himself." Think that ***Silver Star*** sounds like a super-powered version of ***X-Files*** or ***Planetary?*** "Actually, that's a pretty good description," Nitz agreed, adding, "I want to stretch my writing muscles on this book. So I'm trying to incorporate several different influences to make the story unique. I'm a huge fan of ***Hellboy*** and ***Miracleman***, so those influence my take on ***Silver Star*** as much as anything. But, of course, it all comes back to Kirby. The original six issues and other wild Kirby concepts over the years influence the final product most."

"When I was told I would be working on characters created by the great Jack Kirby himself, I erupted in crackling Kirby energy dots myself!" artist Johnny D said. "I'm under way with it now, the script rocks and having my pages go through another icon, *Alex Ross*, means that I'm really going to grow as an artist and deliver my best work by far!"

Silver Star #1, written by *Jai Nitz* and illustrated by *Johnny D* with cover art by *Alex Ross*, *Jae Lee*, and *Mark Buckingham*, is scheduled for November release. (Be here next week as we talk with *Jai Nitz* and *Alex Ross* about their plans for the series.)

IDW's Making Magic

IDW and Hasbro have found great success gaming the comics market: first, their various ***Dungeons & Dragons*** comics have found solid sales and critical acclaim from game-players and comics fans a like, and now they're adding another gaming-inspired comic to the line.

This fall, IDW will launch their ***Magic: The Gathering*** comic book series—the first time in more than a decade that the best-selling trading card game has also been offered in comics form. Adding to the rich stories are exclusive, playable, alternate-art cards for the ***Magic: The Gathering TCG***, which will only be available through select issues of the IDW comics.

"***Magic: The Gathering*** is an incredibly strong property which spawned a new entertainment category, and there is so much to be done creatively with comics," editor

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

I QUIT!
THAT'S HER VOICE!
J. JONAH MESON
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COMIC SHOP NEWS

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Denton J. Tipton said.. "I'm really looking forward to telling new stories in the many worlds of ***Magic***, which have been near and dear to my heart since the mid-90s."

IDW's ***Magic: The Gathering*** is written by renowned author and game designer *Matt Forbeck*, with art by *Martín Cóccolo*. The initial four-issue miniseries will focus on a unique, new Planeswalker, a powerful mage with the ability to travel between worlds in the Magic Multiverse. Many popular ***Magic: The Gathering*** characters will also make an appearance in the series.

CSNsider

•DC has confirmed that the ***Justice Society*** will indeed return to the DCU, written by *James Robinson*—and even better, this book will also mark the return of Earth-2 to the DCU! So what is Earth-2? (And for that matter, exactly what Earth are the New 52 heroes operating in, since Earth One is the home of the *J. Michael Straczynski-Shane Davis* Superman who was introduced in the ***Superman Earth One*** graphic novel?)

•Orders for ***Fables: Werewolves of the Heartland HC*** have been cancelled by DC. The book will be resolicited a later date.

•The news is somewhat worse for ***JSA All-Stars: The Puzzle Men TP***, however: DC has cancelled orders for that collected edition, and it will *not* be resolicited.

•The ***Superboy: Smallville Attacks TP*** will now collect ***Superboy #s 1-11;*** the price remains the same.

•***The Spirit: Clockwork Killer TP,*** will now collect ***The Spirit #s 8-16.*** The price will remain the same.

•*Frank Cho* supplies the cover art for the 1-for-25 variant of ***Fear Itself: The Fearless #2.***

•*Gabrielle Dell'Otto* is the covert artist for the 1-for-20 variant of ***FF #12.***

•*Ladronn* supplies the cover art for the 1-for-15 variant of ***Incredible Hulk #1.***

•***Alpha Flight*** has been promoted to an ongoing series, not a limited series as previously solicited.

Back to Press

•***Action Comics #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118179), featuring a variant over by *Rags Morales*, on sale 9/28.

•***Amazing Spider-Man #668 2nd Printing*** (JUL118071), in stores 9/28.

•***Batgirl #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118180), featuring a recolored version of the *Adam Hughes* over, on sale 9/28.

•***Fear Itself #5 2nd Printing*** (JUL118072), in stores 9/28.

•***Generation Hope #10 2nd Printing*** (JUL118129), in stores 9/28.

•***Venom #5 2nd Printing*** (JUL118070), in stores 9/28.

•***Justice League #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118139), featuring a new cover by *Jim Lee*, was rush-released last week—but the book sold out from DC so quickly that the publisher has also announced...

•***Justice League #1 3rd Printing*** (JUL118177), featuring a cover image previously seen only on the cover to the Comic-Con International San Diego souvenir book, on sale this week.

•***Justice League #1 Combo Pack 2nd Printing*** (JUL118178), featuring a recolored version of the *Jim Lee* cover for ***Justice League 2nd Printing,*** on sale 9/28.

•***Secret Avengers #16 2nd Printing*** (JUL118172), in stores 9/28.

•***Spider-Island: Cloak & Dagger #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118069), in stores this week.

•***Spider-Island: Deadly Foes #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118068), in stores this week.

•***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118153), featuring a variant cover by *Kevin Eastman*, in stores 10/5.

•***Uncanny X-Force #13 2nd Printing*** (JUL118170), in stores 9/28.

•***Uncanny X-Force #14 2nd Printing*** (JUL118171), in stores 9/28.

•***Venom #5 2nd Printing*** (JUL118070), in stores 9/28.

•***X-Men #16 2nd Printing*** (JUL118156), on sale 9/28.

•***X-Men: Schism 3 2nd Printing*** (JUL118173), in stores 9/28.

Rice Takes Readers On the Road to Cana

Anne Rice may have initially made her mark on popular fiction with tales of vampires and witches, but in recent years she's found great success retelling the events of the life of Jesus Christ. Her first novel in the four-novel series, ***Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt,*** chronicled Jesus' childhood, while her second, ***Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana,*** continues to follow his life prior to his baptism.

In the spring of 2012, Sea Lion books will offer a graphic novel adaptation of ***The Road to Cana,*** adapted by *Anne Rice* and *Anne Elizabeth*, with art by *Siya Oum*.

"***Christ the Lord: the Road to Cana,*** I consider one of my personal favorites," said Rice. "The writing of it took less time than the research because I feel driven to recreate authenticity in the narrative. The characters must see what people saw in first century Palestine because I want my readers to see the same. Any artistic effort short of that fails not only for me but also for the actual figures I endeavored to recreate in my novel...

"Sea Lion Books will translate The Road to Cana into a format that will do as I have done: Recreate first century Palestine with the women and men who changed the course of human history. The characters you know will be there—Jesus, Mary, Joseph—in the rich colors and beautiful forms that only artists can draw. This is going to be a thrilling adventure for my characters, for me, and I think for you readers and viewers as well."

"Working on such a spiritually beautiful book is a remarkable experience," *Anne Elizabeth* said. "Not only is it an opportunity to work with brilliant storyteller *Anne Rice* and talented artist *Siya Oum*, but it is a chance to explore my own faith."

The ***Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana*** graphic novel is slated for release just prior to Easter 2012.

EC from GC!

A few weeks ago, ***CSN*** told you about Fantagraphics' plans to offer collections of classic EC material organized thematically and creatively, focusing on specific artists. While many of you were thrilled to hear that the EC reprints would continue, we received numerous emails of concern that comprehensive whole-comics reprintings were being abandoned.

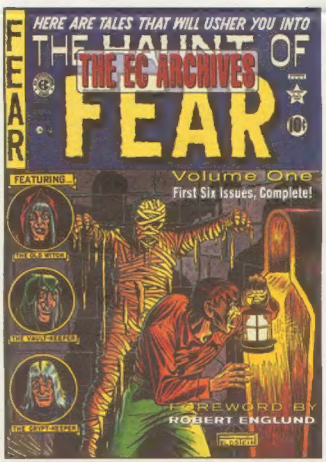
Well, it turns out that they're *not* being abandoned! The fully-recolored EC Archives line that began under Gemstone Publishing will continue thanks to publishers *Russ Cochran* and *Grant Geissman*, who have launched the GC Press imprint to continue collecting complete runs of EC comics.

(For those who might not be aware, *Russ Cochran* is the man who reintroduced EC comics to a new generation of fans—first with his EC Portfolios then with his comprehensive multi-volume ***Complete EC Library*** collections. So it's only natural that he would play a major role in keeping the complete run of EC in print in ***Archives*** hardcovers.)

"First up from the imprint is a continuation of the ***EC Archives*** series (which was originally published by Gemstone)," *Grant Geissman* wrote. "The first books to appear will be ***The Haunt of Fear Volume One HC*** (containing the first six issues of that title, with a foreword by *Robert Englund* and historical notes by *Grant Geissman*), and ***The Vault of Horror Volume 2 HC*** (containing issues 7-12, with a foreword by *John Landis* and historical notes by *Bhob Stewart*).

"The stories have been digitally re-colored based on the original 1950s *Marie Severin* colorings, but the new digital coloring allows subtleties of tone and shading that was not possible on the cheaply-printed original comics. All of the cover reproductions are taken from the original 1950s comics, using the finest copies available—including Gaines file copies."

GC Press's ***Haunt of Fear Volume One HC*** and ***Vault of Horror Volume 2 HC*** are slated for November release.



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30 DAYS OF NIGHT ONGOING #1

Steve Niles (W); Sam Kieth (A)

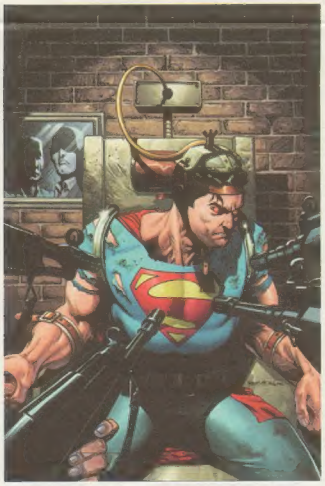
(IDW AUG110315 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The terror from Barrow, Alaska threatens Los Angeles as a vampire resurrection threatens the continued existence of humankind.

Why Should You Care?

This book may feature an all-new cast of characters, but it continues the same edgy horror that put *Steve Niles* on the map—and the illustrations by *Sam Kieth* makes this an artistic treat as well!



ACTION COMICS #2

Grant Morrison (W); Rags Morales & Rick Bryant (A)

(DC AUG110179 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The world wasn't ready for a man with superpowers... but they're *really* not ready for the rage of a cornered super-powered human!

Why Should You Care?

The revamped origin of the Man of Steel continues in this stunning tale by *Grant Morrison*—the man responsible for the best ***Superman*** miniseries of all time (and if you don't believe us, read his ***All-Star Superman*** once more and tell us we're wrong!).

COLD WAR #1

John Byrne (W/A)

(IDW AUG110325 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet MI-6 agent Michael Swann as he is called on to stop a defecting British scientist from sharing his nuclear knowledge with the Soviets.

Why Should You Care?

John Byrne takes readers back to the era of the Cold War with this stylish, fast-paced period piece that's part James Bond, part ***Mad Men***, and all Byrne.

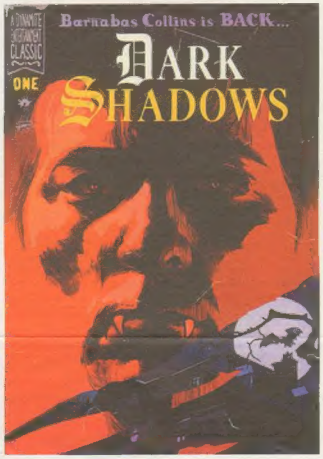
DARK SHADOWS #1

Stuart Manning (W); Aaron Campbell (A)

(Dynamite AUG110953 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Haunted by terrifying dreams of his age-old lover and nemesis, Angelique, and fighting his bloodlust, reluctant vampire Barnabas fears that danger lies ahead for all who live at Collinwood. Meanwhile, Barnabas' ally and trusted friend Dr. Julia Hoffman is harboring secrets of her own...



CSN TOP COMICS: (

Why Should You Care?

The fan-favorite soap opera that would not die is back in an all-new comic book series that picks up right where the ABC series left off forty years ago! Why wait for *Tim Burton* and *Johnny Depp* to reintroduce you to Barnabas and the other residents of Collinwood when Dynamite can keep you ahead of the crowd?

FEAR ITSELF #7 (OF 7)

Matt Fraction (W); Stuart Immonen (A)

(Marvel AUG110569 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Tony Stark returns from the depths with a last-chance arsenal that will transform the Avengers from Earth's Mightiest Heroes into Earth's Last Hope! But will this be the day that everything ends?... And will some of Marvel's mightiest heroes have to pay the ultimate price in order to have a chance at victory?

Why Should You Care?

Marvel's biggest event of 2011 comes to a dramatic conclusion—but as is always the case with Big Events of this sort, the ramifications of *Fear Itself* will be felt for months to come!

FEARLESS #1 (OF 12)

Cullen Bunn, Christopher Yost, & Matt Fraction (W); Mark Bagley & Paul Pelletier (A)

(Marvel AUG110582 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of Fear Itself, *someone* has to recover the villainous artifacts—and it looks like Sin, Crossbones, and Valkyrie are the someones in question!

Why Should You Care?

This biweekly series wraps up the major plot-threads from the ***Fear Itself*** finale—and when you need an artist to illustrate a biweekly series, who could be better for the job than artist extraordinaire *Mark Bagley*, the hardest-working superstar illustrator in comics?

WHY DID YOU REWRITE MY STORY, MR. JAMESON?
THE BUGLE IS MY NEWSPAPER—SO IT'S MY STORY!
YOU'LL GET USED TO BEING TREATED THAT WAY, SERRA.
PARKER! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-7
FRANKLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT— I'M NOT SURE!
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ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF SPIDER-MAN?
FORGET IT, PARKER. YOU'RE YESTERDAY'S NEWS!
SERRA'S GOT THE SPIDER-MAN BEAT NOW.
THEN I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-8
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OCTOBER

HUNTRESS #1 (OF 6)

Paul Levitz (W); Marcus To & John Dell (A)

(DC AUG110197 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Huntress heads home to Italy to embark on a mission that will define her life... and by the time it's over, she'll have the largest price on her head in DCU history!

Why Should You Care?

Huntress creator *Paul Levitz* returns to reinterpret the character for the revamped DCU, kicking off a high-impact miniseries that will tie in to upcoming events in ***Birds of Prey.***

INCREDIBLE HULK #1

Jason Aaron (W); Marc Silvestri (A)

(Marvel AUG110584 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Hulk and Bruce Banner are the focus of this series... but as separate entities! So why is the Hulk assigned to take Banner down?

Why Should You Care?

Jason Aaron takes the Hulk back to the basics with a story that focuses on the Banner-Hulk dichotomy—but in a bold new manner. However, it's the stunning art by *Marc Silvestri* that's going to have everyone talking.

JOHN CARTER OF MARS: WORLD OF MARS #1 (OF 5)

Peter David (W); Luke Ross (A)

(Marvel AUG110591 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The malevolent Sab Than, would-be ruler of Zodanga, thinks that the secret to victory in his war with the people of Helium is the kidnapping of Dejah Thoris. Some plans just aren't as good as others...

Why Should You Care?

Edgar Rice Burroughs fans have never had more choices of reading material as Marvel joins the Mars patrol. *Peter David & Luke Ross* do the honors on this official prequel to the upcoming ***John Carter of Mars*** film based on Burroughs' legendary sword-and-planet saga.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #2

Geoff Johns (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

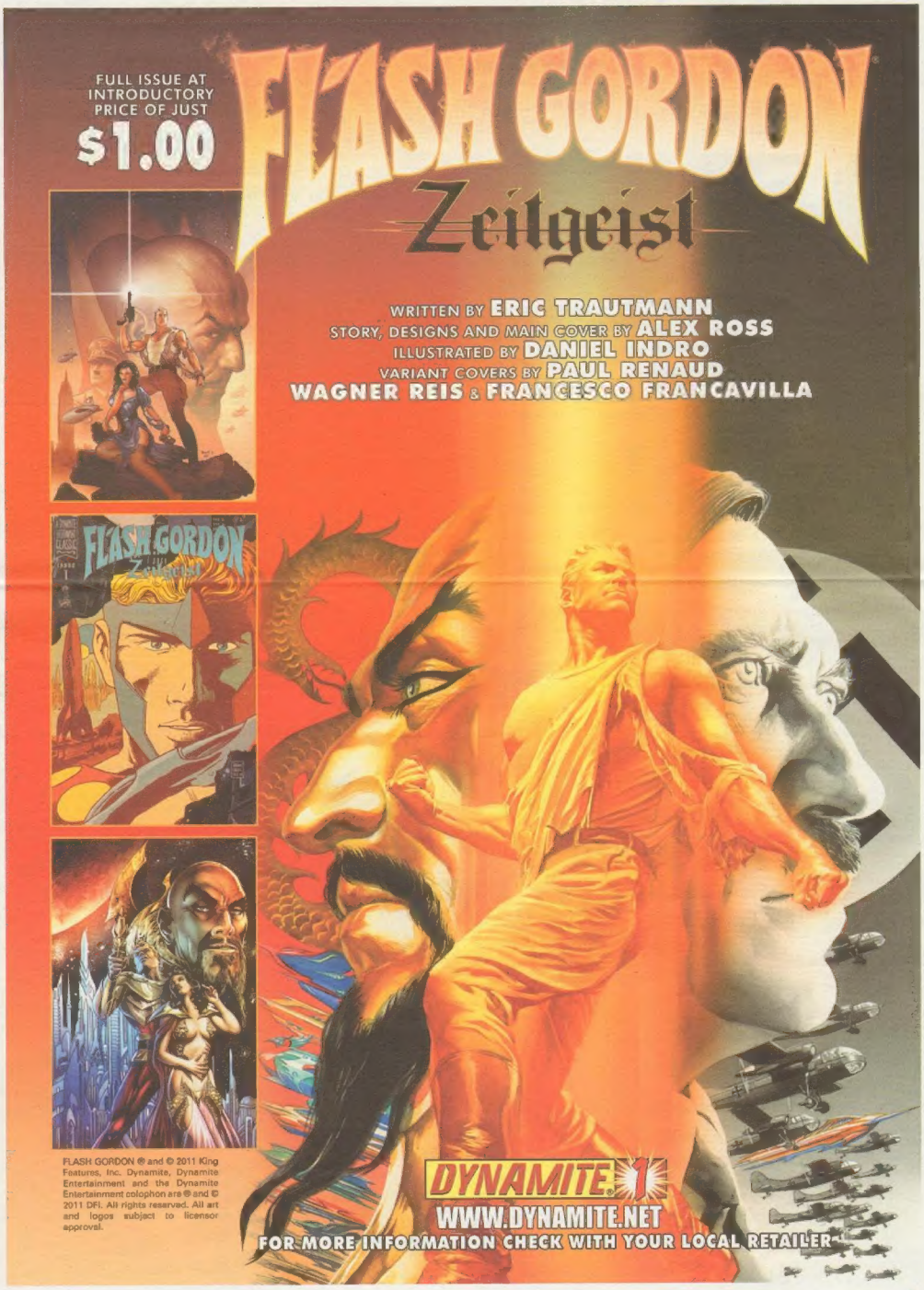
(DC AUG110160 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the first revamped DCU confrontation between Batman and Superman as the origins of the Justice League continue to unfold.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Jim Lee continue to lead the way into the new DCU with this flagship series. Want to know just how different things are post-***Flashpoint?*** This series, set five years before current DCU continuity, delivers those answers!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LEGION: SECRET ORIGIN #1 (OF 6)

Paul Levitz (W); Chris Batista & Rich Perotta (A)

(DC AUG110232 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Why was the organization known as the United Planets formed? Who tried to kill R.J. Brande the first time? And what great power could leave entire planets desolate and lifeless? You'll find the answers here!

Why Should You Care?

Legion maestro *Paul Levitz* reveals the secrets behind the scenes of the Legion's origins in this limited series that's a perfect companion to ***Legion of Super-Heroes*** and ***Legion Lost.***

SHADE #1 (OF 12)

James Robinson (W); Cully Hamner (A)

(DC AUG110208 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

An attack at the Starman museum kicks off a globe-hopping, centuries spanning quest that will irrevocably change The Shade's life, and ultimately shed light on his true origin.

Why Should You Care?

Any time *James Robinson* returns to the world of his acclaimed ***Starman,*** it's a cause for celebration. And this time he's back for a year-long stay as DC launches a twelve-part series featuring art by such all-stars as *Cully Hamner, Darwyn Cooke, Javier Pulido, Jill Thompson, Frazer Irving,* and *Gene Ha.*

SPACEMAN #1 (OF 9)

Brian Azzarello (W); Eduardo Risso (A)

(Vertigo/DC AUG110276 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Orson is a hulking, lonely loser who spends his days collecting scrap metal and dreaming of the star-trekking life he was promised. But his dead-end life takes an abrupt turn when he jumps at what he sees as his chance to become a hero... only to learn that the hero thing isn't as simple as it seems.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso, the creative responsible for the acclaimed and award-winning ***100 Bullets,*** reunite for this post-apocalyptic nine-part character-driven drama.

STAR TREK/LEGION OF SUPERHEROES #1 (OF 6)

Chris Roberson (W); Jeffrey Moy (A)

(IDW AUG110312 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Something goes wrong and a group of Legionnaires find themselves thrust 800 years into the past, where they're trapped in a 23rd century that's just as strange to the crew of the USS Enterprise as it is to the Legion!

Why Should You Care?

Superman: Grounded writer *Chris Roberson* joins with artist *Jeffrey Moy* (who has experience on both *Legion* and *Star Trek,* making him the perfect illustrator for the job) for the first-ever IDW-DCU crossover project. And c'mon... who can resist the opportunity to see Brainiac 5 and Mr. Spock in action together?

UNEXPECTED #1

Dave Gibbons, Brian Wood, Joshua Dysart, & Others (W); Jill Thompson, Dave Gibbons, Emily Carroll, & others (A)

(Vertigo/DC AUG110290 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Following up on the SF-themed ***Strange Adventures,*** Vertigo launches its second original anthology oneshot, this one presenting tales of horror and suspense.

Why Should You Care?

If the creative team isn't enough to hook, you, then perhaps this will: ***Unexpected*** will offer a preview of Vertigo's next big monthly series, a macabre and magical tale of voodoo set in the death-soaked streets of New Orleans.

WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN #1

Jason Aaron (W); Chris Bachalo (A)

(Marvel AUG110653 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Where there was once one X-Men team, there are now two, each with very different missions and very different visions of the roles that mutants must play in the Marvel Universe. Wolverine leads his team back to Westchester to start over again... but the Hellfire Club might make their fresh start very short-lived!

Why Should You Care?

Jason Aaron, the mastermind of the ***Schism*** event that led to the split of Marvel's mutants, is the driving force behind this series that casts Wolverine as the leader of the X-Men... but is Logan ready for the responsibility? The major directional change in Marvel's mutantverse is defined in this series.

X-MEN: REGENESIS #1

Kieron Gillen (W); Billy Tan (A)

(Marvel AUG110651 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The conflict at the core of ***Schism*** is settled, and now it's time for mutants to choose a side. But whichever side they choose, things will never be the same...

Why Should You Care?

Want to see who's on which team? *ReGenesis* is the book that defines the two factions in the X-Universe, paving the way for ***Wolverine and the X-Men*** and ***Uncanny X-Men.***

Collected Cool: October's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE IDENTITY CRISIS HC

(DC MAR110352 $99.99)

The oversized slipcased edition of *Brad Meltzer-Rags Morales* miniseries includes a gallery of the variant covers, previously unpublished script pages, and more.

BLOOM COUNTY COMPLETE LIBRARY HC VOL 5

(IDW AUG110382 $39.99)

All good things must come to an end—and that includes ***Bloom County.*** This final volume in the series collects *Berke Breathed* strips from 11/30/87 through 8/6/89 (the final strip).

COMPLETE MAJOR BUMMER SUPER SPECTACULAR TP

(Dark Horse MAY110044 $29.99)

Sometimes a concept is just ahead of its time—and that was definitely the case with the all-too-short-lived ***Major Bummer,*** the slacker superhero series by Arcudi & Mahnke.

FLASHPOINT HC

(DC AUG110244 $22.99)

The crucial series by *Geoff Johns & Andy Kubert* that changed the entire DCU is collected in hardcover.

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN OMNIBUS HC

(DC JUN110338 $49.99)

Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill's ***League of Extraordinary Gentlemen vols 1 & 2*** are compiled in a single volume.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES HC VOL 5

(Marvel MAY110720 $64.99)

Marvel's Atlas era horror-suspense series may not have generated the attention that EC comics did, but the lineup of creative talent was just as impressive: Bill Everett, John Forte, Dick Ayers, Joe Orlando, Bernie Krigstein, Doug Wildey, Bob Powell, Russ Heath, Bob Brown, Joe Sinnott, Jack Keller, Bernard Baily, John Severin, Steve Ditko, Manny Stallman, and Mort Meskin are all featured in this collection of ***Strange Tales #s 40-48.***

NIGHT FORCE HC

(DC JUN110272 $39.99)

Tomb of Dracula wasn't the only horror-suspense series that *Marv Wolfman & Gene Colan* produced; this volume features all fourteen issues of their moody melodrama ***Night Force.***

SIMON & KIRBY LIBRARY HC: CRIME COMICS

(Titan JUL111233 $49.95)

Editor *Steve Saffel* continues his comprehensive reprinting of the work of *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby* with this collection of hard-hitting crime drama, restored and collected for the first time.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: LEGACY VOL 1

(Archie AUG110824 $14.95)

The most successful all-ages licensed series in print today is compiled in hefty paperback editions. this volume includes ***Sonic the Hedgehog #0-3*** of the original mini-series and ***Sonic the Hedgehog #1-16*** of the ongoing series.

SUGAR AND SPIKE ARCHIVES HC VOL 1

(DC Direct JAN110334 $59.99)

Sheldon Mayer's story of two babies who can only be understood by one another is collected at long last! This volume includes the almost-impossible-to-find ***Sugar & Spike #s 1-10.***

WALLY WOOD'S EC STORIES ARTIST'S EDITION HC

(IDW AUG110352 $175.00)

The third volume in IDW's ***Artist's Edition*** series is a massive 15" x 22" hardcover reproducing *Wally Wood's* original EC art in full color to show off blue pencil work, corrections, etc.—an art aficionado's must-have.

WALT DISNEY'S DONALD DUCK HC VOL 1: LOST IN THE ANDES

(Fantagraphics AUG111043 $28.99)

Fantagraphics launches first volume in a series of affordable, full-color hardcovers collecting the complete works of "The Good Duck Artist" *Carl Barks,* whose timeless all-ages storytelling is just as fresh today as it was when it appeared more than a half-century ago.

X-MEN BY CLAREMONT AND LEE OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel MAY110714 $125.00)

The fan-favorite run by two of the most acclaimed X-Men creators of all time is collected in the first of two Omnibus editions. This volume includes ***Uncanny X-Men #s 344-269, X-Men Annual #13,*** and ***Classic X-Men #39.***

PETER- WAIT UP!
EVEN IF I TAKE PIX OF SPIDER-MAN, I DON'T WANT TO DO YOU OUT OF A JOB!
IT'S OKAY, SERRA.....
MAYBE IT'S TIME I FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO SELL MY PHOTOS TO!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-9
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FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

1001 COMICS YOU MUST READ BEFORE YOU DIE HC

(Rizzoli AUG111316 $36.95)

Editor *Paul Gravett* assembles an amazing cross-section of comics greatest stories, characters, artists, and writers. You may or may not agree with everything on the list—but that's part of the fun of a book like this, isn't it?

ALTER EGO #105

(TwoMorrows AUG111319 $7.95)

Alter Ego offers an insightful look at how the Comics Code Authority changed comics—literally—for more than a half-century.

JACK DAVIS: DRAWING AMERICAN POP CULTURE HC

(Fantagraphics AUG111049 $49.99)

Career-spanning retrospective of the mega-popular artist who made the leap from comic book illustrator to master caricaturist and mass-media icon.

METAMAUS: LOOK INSIDE MODERN CLASSIC MAUS HC

(Pantheon AUG111166 $35.00)

Art Spiegelman revisits the book that consumed him for over a decade to talk about his survivor parents, the oxymoron of picturing life in a death camp, his guilt-ridden success, racist imagery, and his beloved medium of comics; along the way, he tells the story of how and why a work of art is made, as it grapples with the questions that Maus has most often evoked: Why the Holocaust? Why mice? Why comics?

QUALITY COMPANION SC

(TwoMorrows AUG111218 $31.95)

This volume presents an insightful look at the prolific Golden Age publisher that spawned a treasure trove of beautiful art and classic characters, including the Freedom Fighters—Uncle Sam, Phantom Lady, Black Condor, The Ray, Human Bomb, and Doll Man—as well as Plastic Man, the Blackhawks, and others now under the DC Comics umbrella.

SPIDER-MAN VAULT

(Running Press JUN111373 $49.95)

This insightful and ephemera-filled look at Spider-Man's history and development includes removable reproductions of twenty rare collectibles taken from the Marvel vaults.

STAN LEE'S HOW TO WRITE COMICS HC

(Dynamite AUG110985 $45.00)

Stan Lee shares his secrets of comic storytelling, offering easy to understand instruction, tips of the trade, and invaluable advice even for more advanced writers.

WAR, POLITICS, AND SUPERHEROES SC

(McFarland AUG111343 $45.00)

Batman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Superman, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men—these are just a few of the many superheroes whose exploits have touched on political themes. This critical volume by *Marc Dipaolo* offers a look at the subtext of political commentary in the comics medium.

Hot Commodities: October's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

ADAM HUGHES' VAMPIRELLA STATUE

(Dynamite MAY111013 $189.99)

Joy & Tom Snyder sculpt this striking statue based on *Adam Hughes'* cover art. And if Adam Hughes is involved, you know this is going to be one sensual statue...

DC DYNAMICS JOKER STATUE

(DC Direct JAN110454 $195.00)

Award-winning sculptor *Tim Bruckner* sculpts a striking version of The Joker surrounded by a cloud of smoke, delighting in his maniacal mischief as he throws Joker bombs about.

DC SUPERHERO FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE SPEC MR MXYZPTLK/BAT-MITE

(Eaglemoss AUG111334 $22.00)

DC's most famous extra-dimensional pranksters are spotlighted in this two-character lead figure set.

HEROES OF THE DCU: BLACK LANTERN NEKRON BUST

(DC Direct MAR110409 $70.00)

The deadly Nekron is featured in this minibust by *Jim Shoop*, based on the art of *Ivan Reis*.

WOLVERINE OLD MAN LOGAN STATUE

(Bowen JUL111879 $235.00)

The Kucharek Brothers bring the older, but still quite deadly, Logan to life in this statue based on *Mark Millar & Steve McNiven's* best-selling future Wolverine story arc.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

AVENGERS #18

(Marvel AUG110605 $3.99)

In the aftermath of Fear Itself, it's time for the Avengers to reinvent themselves once more!

AVENGERS 1959 #1 (OF 5)

(Marvel AUG110607 $2.99)

Howard Chaykin offers a look at Nick Fury and his pre-Marvel-Age-of-Comics Avengers.

BATMAN: ODYSSEY VOL 2 #1 (OF 7)

(DC AUG110192 $2.99)

Neal Adams continues his look at Batman's early days.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER SEASON 9: FREEFALL #2

(Dark Horse AUG110033 $2.99)

Buffy creator *Joss Whedon* joins with writer *Andrew Chambliss* to continue the next season of *Buffy* in comics form.

CASPER'S SCARE SCHOOL #1 (OF 4)

(Ape AUG110779 $3.99)

The ever-popular Friendly Ghost makes his return to comics in this all-ages series.

ELRIC: THE BALANCE LOST #4

(Boom AUG110900 $3.99)

Elric, Hawkmoon, and Corum face creatures and foes from their storied past in this tale by *Chris Roberson* that brings together some of *Michael Moorcock's* most best-known characters.

GREEN LANTERN #2

(DC AUG110202 $2.99)

Sinestro sets out the rid his world of the Sinestro Corps in this tale by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy.*

H.P. LOVECRAFT'S THE DUNWICH HORROR #1 (OF 4)

(IDW AUG110348 $3.99)

Joe R. Lansdale adapts one of *H.P. Lovecraft's* best-known tales, updating it for a 21st century audience.

ROGER LANGRIDGE'S SNARKED #1

(Boom AUG110930 $3.99)

Roger Langridge launches his charming *Lewis Carroll*-inspired all-ages adventure series featuring the Walrus, the Carpenter, Princess Scarlett, the Red King, and more.

SERGIO ARAGONES' FUNNIES #4

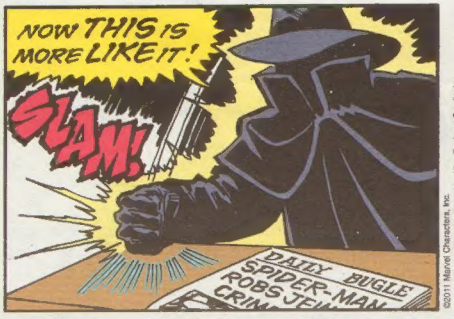
(Bongo AUG110883 $3.50)

No one puts the "funny" back in "funny book" better than *Sergio Aragones*. Each issue blends short tales, biographical vignettes, activity pages, and more, all produced in Aragones' hyperactively hilarious style.

SUPERNATURAL #1 (OF 6)

(DC AUG110275 $2.99)

Brian Wood presents a look at Sam Winchester's experiences in the UK in the latest original *Supernatural* miniseries.



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